

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following rewritten paragraph:

The length of the layer 26 is less than that of the layers 22 and 24 and the layer 26 is positioned so that its end abuts the shoulder between the intermediate bore portion 12b and the end bore portion 12c, and so that its corresponding end portion engages the end bore portion ~~22e~~ 12c. Two bolts 28a and 28b are threaded into the bores 10d and 10e with their respective ends engaging the layer 26 to secure the pipe 20 to the end fitting 10.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following rewritten paragraph:

As better shown in FIG. 3, a retaining ring 30 is disposed in the end portion of the pipe 10, and more particularly, along that portion of the inner layer 22 extending along the intermediate bore portion 12b. The ring 30 has an annular flange 30a extending radially outwardly from one end thereof that engages the ~~above~~ shoulder at the junction between the end bore portion 12a and the intermediate bore portion 12b. Thus, the respective end portions of the pipe layers 22 and 24 extend between the inner surface of the ring 30 and the wall of the end fitting 10 defining the intermediate bore portion 12b, with the respective ends of the layers abutting the flange 30a. As a result, the projections 14a and 14b sealingly engage the corresponding inner surfaces of the pipe layer 24 with the ring 30 promoting the engagement.